Government issues foodgrains in bulk to States/UTs for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) at fixed Central Issue Prices. The foodgrains for Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) areas are issued to States/UTs at Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50/- per quintal less than Central Issue Prices for normal PDS areas. The State Governments/UT Administrations fix the end retail prices at fair price shops after taking into account transport cost, dealers margins and other levies/taxes. Some State Governments had suggested a further reduction in the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains issued for the RPDS. All such suggestions are examined by the Central Government. No specific time limit has been fixed for the implementation of the suggestions. Levy sugar is old the uniform end retail price of Rs. 9.05 paise per kg. through fair price shops all over the country. Central Government has no proposal to further reduce the end retail price of levy sugar.

खाद्य तेलों के भंडार के वितरण के लिए माध्यम

16. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:
श्री दिग्विजय सिंह:
श्री रजनी रंजन साहू:

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्तमान में सरकार के पास पामोलिन आदि जैसे खाद्य तेलों का कितनी मात्रा में भंडार है और प्रतिमाह उपभोक्ताओं को कितनी मात्रा में और किस दर पर और किस-किस माध्यम से खाद्य तेल उपलब्ध कराया जाता है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने देश में इस समय खाद्य तेलों और आयातित खाद्य तेलों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली/उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से उपभोक्ताओं को वितरित करने की कोई योजना तैयार की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या है और इसे कब तक लागू किया जाएगा तथा उपभोक्ताओं को उचित दर की दुकानों से कितनी मात्रा में और किस दर पर खाद्य तेल उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) से (ग) राज्य व्यापार निगम के पास राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए सप्लाई करने हेतु उपलब्ध आयातित खाद्य तेल के स्टाक की स्थिति इस समय काफी आसान है और आशा है कि राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत वितरण की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए सारे वर्ष पर्याप्त मात्रा बनाए रखी जाएगी। चालू वर्ष के दौरान राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए केन्द्रीय पूल से आयातित खाद्य तेलों का कुल महीनावार आवंटन इस प्रकार रहा है:—

महीना	मात्रा मी॰ टन में
अप्रैल, 95	3,000
मई, 95	14, 730
जून, 95	13,905
जुलाई, 95	36,657

राज्यों/संघ क्षेत्रों को आयातित खाद्य तेल की आपूर्ति हेतु केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य थोक में 24,000 रु॰ प्रति मी॰ टन तथा 15 कि॰ग्रा॰ के टीनों में 27,000 रु॰ प्रति मी॰ टन है। राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे तेल के अंतिम खुदरा मूल्य स्वयं नियत करें।

राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए आवंटित आयातित खाद्य तेल देश भर में उपभोक्ताओं को उचित दर की दुकानों तथा सहकारी बिक्री केन्द्रों के जरिए उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।

Research Paper on Agricultural Trade Liberalisation by World Bank

17. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the World Bank's research paper entitled "Agricultural Trade Liberalisation in the Uruguay Round — one step forward and one step back"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the World Bank's argument that the

intended liberalisation in agricultural trade had not been achieved in the multilateral negotiation leading to Uruguay Round Agreement to reduce agricultural tariffs imposed by developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank's research paper entitled "Agricultural Trade Liberalisation in the Uruguay Round: One step Forward, One Step Back?" concludes that while there was significant reform in the rules, particularly the conversion of non-tariff barriers into tariffs and the reduction and binding of all tariffs, the extent of liberalisation that will be achieved will be significantly less than previously expected and that much needs to be done in future rounds of multilateral trade negotiations in order to achieve more substantial and real reductions in agricultural protection. The conclusion is not at variance with the objectives of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture as stated in the Preamble. The Preamble to the Agreement states that Members decided to establish a basis for initiating a process of reform of trade in agriculture with the long-term objective of establishing a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.

The research paper is written by Mr. Merlinda D. Ingco from the International Trade Division of the World Bank. It is clearly stated in the paper that the views expressed therein are those of the author and should not be attributed to the World Bank or to its affiliated organisations.

Guidelines Governing the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme

18. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the M.Ps. are required to follow the guidelines governing the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether Government's attention has since been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Statesman' (Calcutta edition) in the first week of July, regarding the utilisation of this fund; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Information has been called for from the State Government of West Bengal about the news item. Necessary appropriate action will be considered on receipt of the same.

Foodgrains Stock Available for Distribution through PDS

19. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of foodgrains available for distribution through PDS;

(b) whether it is a fact that some PDS consumers opt for open market instead of PDS due to poor quality of foodgrains in the PDS;

(c) if so, how much foodgrains stock remains unpurchased due to this shift of consumers from the ration shops;

(d) the persons responsible for poor quality of foodgrains for PDS as farmers sell them in good quality; and

(e) steps taken by Govenment to improve the quality of foodgrains supplied through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.7.95 was nearly at 35.6 million tons comprising 16.4 million tons of Rice and 19.2 million tons of wheat.